



100 Tips for Conserving Water

- #1 There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you.
- #2 When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- #3 Some refrigerators, air conditioners and ice-makers are cooled with wasted flows of water. Consider upgrading with air-cooled appliances for significant water savings.
- #4 Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- #5 Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they're full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- #6 Choose shrubs and groundcovers, instead of turf, for hard-to-water areas like steep slopes and isolated strips.
- #7 Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around your pumps.
- #8 Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost vegetable food waste instead and save gallons every time.
- #9 Plant in the fall when conditions are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.
- #10 For cold drinks keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap. This way, every drop goes down you and not the drain.
- #11 Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.
- #12 Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.
- #13 Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.
- #14 Spreading a layer of organic mulch around plants retains moisture and saves water, time and money.
- #15 Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk and save water every time.
- #16 If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a water-efficient model.
- #17 Collect the water you use for rinsing fruits and vegetables, then reuse it to water houseplants.
- #18 If water runs off your lawn easily, split your watering time into shorter periods to allow for better absorption.
- #19 We're more likely to notice leaks indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, sprinklers and hoses for leaks.
- #20 If you have an automatic refilling device, check your pool periodically for leaks.
- #21 Check the root zone of your lawn or garden for moisture before watering using a spade or

- trowel. If it's still moist 2 inches under the soil surface, you still have enough water.
- #22 When buying new appliances, consider those that offer cycle and load size adjustments. They're more water and energy efficient.
 - #23 Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.
 - #24 Upgrade older toilets with water efficient models.
 - #25 Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture better than if it is closely clipped.
 - #26 When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your plants.
 - #27 Use sprinklers for large areas of grass. Water small patches by hand to avoid waste.
 - #28 Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
 - #29 When running a bath, plug the tub before turning the water on, then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.
 - #30 Walkways and patios provide space that doesn't ever need to be watered. These useful "rooms" can also add value to your property.
 - #31 Collect water from your roof to water your garden.
 - #32 Designate one glass for your drinking water each day or refill a water bottle. This will cut down on the number of glasses to wash.
 - #33 Rather than following a set watering schedule, check for soil moisture two to three inches below the surface before watering.
 - #34 Install a rain sensor on your irrigation controller so your system won't run when it's raining.
 - #35 Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator for water efficiency and food safety.
 - #36 Use drip irrigation for shrubs and trees to apply water directly to the roots where it's needed.
 - #37 Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. Faucet repair can save up to 300 gallons a month.
 - #38 Reduce the amount of lawn in your yard by planting shrubs and ground covers appropriate to your site and region.
 - #39 When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
 - #40 Teach your children to turn off faucets tightly after each use.
 - #41 Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the sprinkler heads in good shape.
 - #42 Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
 - #43 Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
 - #44 Don't water your lawn on windy days when most of the water blows away or evaporates.
 - #45 Water your plants deeply but less frequently to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance.
 - #46 Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save water and prevent damage to your home.
 - #47 To decrease water from being wasted on sloping lawns, apply water for five minutes and then

repeat two to three times.

- #48 Group plants with the same watering needs together to avoid over watering some while under watering others.
- #49 Use a layer of organic material on the surface of your planting beds to minimize weed growth that competes for water.
- #50 Use a minimum amount of organic or slow release fertilizer to promote a healthy and drought tolerant landscape.
- #51 Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation, than those spraying water into the air.
- #52 Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- #53 Avoid recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water.
- #54 Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and save 25 gallons a month.
- #55 Use a rain gauge, or empty tuna can, to track rainfall on your lawn. Then reduce your watering accordingly.
- #56 Encourage your school system and local government to develop and promote water conservation among children and adults.
- #57 Learn how to shut off your automatic watering system in case it malfunctions or you get an unexpected rain.
- #58 Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden to remind you when to stop. A running hose can discharge up to 10 gallons a minute.
- #59 If your toilet flapper doesn't close after flushing, replace it.
- #60 Make sure there are water-saving aerators on all of your faucets.
- #61 By selecting plants suited to your yard's conditions, you'll use less water and other resources.
- #62 Install an instant water heater near your kitchen sink so you don't have to run the water while it heats up. This also reduces energy costs.
- #63 Use a grease pencil to mark the water level of your pool at the skimmer. Check the mark 24 hours later to see if you have a leak.
- #64 If your dishwasher is new, cut back on rinsing. Newer models clean more thoroughly than older ones.
- #65 Use a trowel, shovel, or soil probe to examine soil moisture depth. If the top two to three inches of soil are dry it's time to water.
- #66 If installing a lawn, select a turf mix or blend that matches your climate and site conditions.
- #67 When you save water, you save money on your utility bills too. Saving water is easy for everyone to do.
- #68 When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.
- #69 Make sure your swimming pools, fountains, and ponds are equipped with recirculating pumps.
- #70 Bathe your young children together.
- #71 Consult with your local nursery for information on plant selection and placement for optimum outdoor water savings.

- #72 Winterize outdoor spigots when temperatures dip below freezing to prevent pipes from leaking or bursting.
- #73 Insulate hot water pipes for more immediate hot water at the faucet and for energy savings.
- #74 Wash your car on the lawn, and you'll water your lawn at the same time.
- #75 Drop your tissue in the trash instead of flushing it and save water every time.
- #76 Direct water from rain gutters and HVAC systems towards water-loving plants in the landscape for automatic water savings.
- #77 Make suggestions to your employer about ways to save water and money at work.
- #78 Support projects that use reclaimed wastewater for irrigation and industrial uses.
- #79 Use a hose nozzle or turn off the water while you wash your car. You'll save up to 100 gallons every time.
- #80 Share water conservation tips with friends and neighbors.
- #81 If your toilet was installed before 1992, reduce the amount of water used for each flush by inserting a displacement device in the tank.
- #82 Setting cooling systems and water softeners for a minimum number of re-fills saves both water and chemicals, plus more on utility bills.
- #83 Washing dark clothes in cold water saves both on water and energy while it helps your clothes to keep their colors.
- #84 Leave lower branches on trees and shrubs and allow leaf litter to accumulate on the soil. This keeps the soil cooler and reduces evaporation.
- #85 Report broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or your water provider.
- #86 Let your lawn go dormant during the summer. Dormant grass only needs to be watered every three weeks or less if it rains.
- #87 Plant with finished compost to add water-holding and nutrient-rich organic matter to the soil.
- #88 Use sprinklers that deliver big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller water drops and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground.
- #89 Listen for dripping faucets and running toilets. Fixing a leak can save 300 gallons a month or more.
- #90 Water only when necessary. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering.
- #91 One more way to get eight glasses of water a day is to re-use the water left over from cooked or steamed foods to start a scrumptious and nutritious soup.
- #92 Adjust your watering schedule each month to match seasonal weather conditions and landscape requirements.
- #93 Turn off the water while you wash your hair to save up to 150 gallons a month.
- #94 Wash your pets outdoors in an area of your lawn that needs water.
- #95 When shopping for a new clothes washer, compare resource savings among Energy Star models. Some of these can save up to 20 gallons per load, and energy too.
- #96 Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it.
- #97 Aerate your lawn at least once a year so water can reach the roots rather than run off the surface.

- #98 When washing dishes by hand, fill the sink basin or a large container and rinse when all of the dishes have been soaped and scrubbed.
- #99 Catch water in an empty tuna can to measure sprinkler output. One inch of water on one square foot of grass equals two-thirds of a gallon of water.
- #100 Turn off the water while you shave and save up to 300 gallons a month.

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